

From: Helverson, Robert
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2015 12:07 PM
Subject: ATSDR Health Consultation for the Carter Impoundment released 7/30/2015
Attachments: Carter Impoundment_HC_07-27-2015.pdf

In March 2013, residents from the Mount Pleasant Township community near the Carter Impoundment petitioned ATSDR to evaluate whether exposures to chemicals in air or water from the impoundment or associated operations could affect the health of people living nearby. The enclosed health consultation completes our evaluation of the environmental data received as of 2013. Please feel free to share this copy with your community. To access an electronic copy of this health consultation, go to:
http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/CarterImpoundment/CarterImpoundment_HC_%2007-30-2015_508.pdf

ATSDR reached four important conclusions in the health consultation (see document for further details):

- * Not enough data are available to determine whether breathing contaminants in air in the area around the Carter Impoundment could harm nearby residents' health.
- * Chemicals found in drinking water samples collected in 2011 and 2012 from two private wells and one spring near the Carter Impoundment are generally below levels that would be expected to harm people's health. More recent sampling data would be needed to evaluate current groundwater contamination in the area.
- * Chemicals found in surface water near the Carter Impoundment are not expected to harm people's health. More recent sampling data would be needed to evaluate current exposures to surface water in the area.
- * Not enough data are available to determine whether drinking private well or spring water, or coming in contact with surface water, in the future will harm people's health.

ATSDR recommends more representative air sampling be conducted to help ATSDR make firmer conclusions about the community public health impacts of the impoundment and other nearby infrastructure. We recommend that future air sampling:

- * Include offsite sampling collected both specifically during odor events and over time to characterize typical impoundment operations (covering different seasons, scheduled releases, and maintenance activities); and,
- * Be collected and analyzed for a wide range of compounds, for example aldehydes, carbonyls, and other volatile substances involved in the extraction, processing, and transport of natural gas, as well as low molecular weight sulfur compounds known to be released from wastewater impoundments.

As a prudent public health measure, ATSDR recommends that all homeowners who use water from private wells, and in particular those in areas near gas drilling activity, have their wells routinely tested. The Penn State Extension Program provides low cost well testing and offers a specific gas/oil water testing package. Please see page 13 of the enclosed report for links to further information on the private water well testing program and specific analytes appropriate to include in drinking water testing in the area.

The limited number and locations of the available surface water sampling information add uncertainty regarding current exposures, and new industry infrastructure in the area may have changed surface water quality and flow patterns.

ATSDR recommends that regulatory authorities consider additional monitoring of groundwater and surface water around this impoundment during and following operations.

This health consultation is available to the public, including interested community members and agency representatives. ATSDR is available to discuss any public health questions or concerns related to the site with community members and local, state, and federal authorities. ATSDR will evaluate the need for additional community based air sampling at this location, and consider reviewing any additional environmental sampling data or relevant public health information collected at the site.

ATSDR is currently planning to visit the site area on August 25 and 26, 2015, and can schedule a time to meet with you, if interested. If that time period is not convenient, we are also available by phone or email or could schedule another visit to your community after October 1, 2015. Please feel free to contact me at (215) 814-3139 or by email at gfu6@cdc.gov if you would like to schedule a meeting with ATSDR, have questions or would like to discuss the enclosed health consultation.

Sincerely,

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